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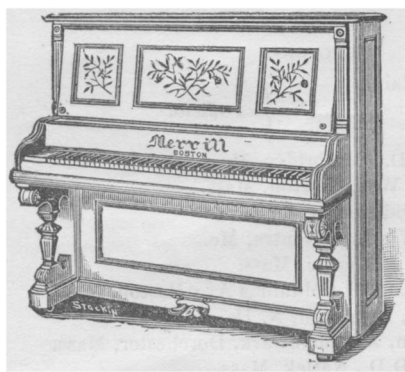
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BOSTON, JULY, 1894.

No. 7.

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THE PROBLEM OF EUROPEAN DISARMAMENT.

No problem of practical statesmanship has ever confronted the world of greater moment and of greater delicacy than that of European disarmament at the present time. A few years ago, though a small number of men saw the question rising in the distance with prodigious rapidity, yet most people of all ranks would have said that there was no such problem and that none would ever arise. The statesmen of no nation cared to look beyond what seemed to them the immediate necessities of their own country. The possible results of military rivalry they carefully hid from their eyes, and shrugged their shoulders and smiled when told that a chasm of bankruptcy and general ruin was yawning at the end of the course on

which they were entering. Even now, though many are opening their eyes to the deplorable condition into which the Continental nations have been plunged, yet most of those who are in official positions are still controlled more by fear and blind zeal than by good judgment and, like a teamster beating his poor horses when the wagon has sunk to the axle in mire, they are attempting to goad on to further sacrifices the already overloaded and despairing people.

But the limit has been at last reached and the problem must be tackled without much further delay. In all the national budgets there are deficits for which provision can with the extremest difficulty be made by any sort of new tax which is acceptable to the people and their deputies. It is doubtful whether another deficit in the budgets, which is sure to come next year, if present conditions continue, can be met at all. It is this fact, patent now to all eyes, which is forcing into consideration the problem of disarmament, for this word disarmament alone expresses the real nature of the question pressing for solution.

There is another reason why we may expect an early attempt at disarmament. While it is primarily the deficits which are forcing the public functionaries to take up the question, back of these deficits are the burdens which have so long rested heavily on the people. These burdens have in many cases been borne patiently and patriotically, but they have grown galling after the lapse of years, and it is beginning to be seen that it is not the real interests of the country which are imposing them. Multitudes all over Europe are thinking and now daring to say that individuals have rights which no State can justly take away. An old lady in Germany, to whom an American traveller expressed surprise when he saw her trudging along with a heavy burden on her shoulders, said patriotically and poetically: "Why, I am carrying the German army on my back." Now, it may be very easy and refreshing to carry the German army, or some other army, on one's back for a little while. But such a burden becomes insupportably heavy after twenty-five years of trudging under it, especially when battalion after battalion has been added to the load. The revolt against this long-continued carrying of useless burdens is growing deep and widespread. It is making itself known through the rapidly multiplying peace societies, through the propaganda of the Socialists, through the awakened press and through representatives of the people in the